REMARKS

The Specification has been amended. Claims 1, 3 - 13, and 16 have been amended to clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. No new matter has been introduced with these amendments, all of which are supported in the specification as originally filed. Claims 2, 14 - 15, and 17 - 19 have been cancelled from the application without prejudice. Claims 1, 3 - 13, and 16 are now in the application.

I.   Objection to the Claims

Page of the Office Action dated July 13, 2005 (hereinafter, "the Office Action") states that Claims 1 and 7 objected to because of informalities. Appropriate corrections have been made herein, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this objection.

II.   Rejection under 35 U. S. C. §102

Page 2 of the Office Action states that Claims 1 - 19 are rejected under 35 U. S. C. §102 as being anticipated by U. S. Patent Publication 2002/0103932 to Bilbrey et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants have amended their independent Claims 1, 7, and 12 to clarify limitations of their claimed invention, and respectfully submit that these claims contain limitations not taught by Bilbrey, as will now be discussed.

With regard to Applicants' independent Claim 1, this claim is clarified to specify that a

Serial No. 10/064,793   -11-   JP920010176US1

"centralized server" performs the update ("... of said one or more recipient addresses on said recipient address list by referencing said edited reference list, after said centralized server obtains said recipient address list and said edited reference list") and that this centralized server provides the updated recipient address list "to said e-mail transmitter, thereby enabling said e-mail transmitter to subsequently use said updated recipient address list for transmitting at least one e-mail message to said recipient addresses on said updated recipient address list" (Claim 1, lines 7 - 12). This is in contrast to Bilbrey, where updates are not performed at a centralized server. Instead, Bilbrey teaches that updates are performed:

- by a Re-Connection Manager in a first preferred embodiment (illustrated in Fig. 1; see boxes therein numbered 10 and 11) responsive to receiving "new mailbox addresses" from a Network Server (see boxes numbered 8 and 9 in Fig. 1), where these new mailbox addresses are received because the Re-Connection Manager has asked the Network Server for the new addresses that replace previously-used old addresses (see boxes numbered 4 - 7 in Fig. 1). See also paragraph 0047, noting that "access to the Sponsor's list of recipients is not needed by the Network Server" (i.e., the Network Server does not receive the full address list, according to the "trade secret" concerns discussed in paragraph 0006, lines 8 - 13) and paragraphs 0058 and 0059, stating that the Network Server sends to the Re-Connection Manager "COA [change of address] changes since the last update request from the [Re-Connection Manager]" (paragraph 0058, lines 10 - 12) and "the recipients' new e-mail

Serial No. 10/064,793   -12-   JP920010176US1

address" for each address requested by the Re-Connection Manager (paragraph 0059, lines 2 - 3). Paragraph 0059 further states that it is the Re-Connection Manager that "executes an update function" to input the new e-mail addresses into the Sponsor's database; see lines 7 - 9 thereof.

• by the Sponsor, in a second preferred embodiment illustrated in Fig. 16A; see boxes numbered 5 and 6 therein, wherein the Network Server transfers a set of "new approved mailbox addresses" to the Sponsor and the Sponsor then uses those addresses to update its database. While the Sponsor may transmit its mailbox/address information to the Network Server in this embodiment, the network Server does not update the transmitted mailbox/address information. Instead, the Network Server returns information to the Sponsor, with which the Sponsor can perform the updates. See Fig. 16B, where the Network Server returns "Approved Mailbox Address Updates". As discussed above with reference to the first preferred embodiment, Bilbrey explains with regard to box 8 of Fig. 1 that "approved mailbox/address updates" are those addresses for which the Sponsor needs a new address. See also paragraph 0083, stating that the Network Server "transmits the new approved mailboxes/addresses to the Sponsor" (liens 2 - 3, emphasis added), and that upon receipt of such updates (i.e., of such new approved mailboxes/addresses), "the Sponsor suitably updates their database(s) with the new mailbox/address"(lines 6 - 7, emphasis added). See also paragraph 0084, stating that [even though] the

Serial No. 10/064,793   -13-   JP920010176US1

Sponsor may communicate its "entire mailbox/address listing" (lines 6 - 8, emphasis added) to the Network Server, what the Network Server sends in return is "the approved mailbox/address updates" (lines 8 - 9). That is, the Network Server returns only the addresses for which updates are required, as shown in Fig. 16B, leaving the update task to the Sponsor.

- by the Sponsor, in a third embodiment. This embodiment is illustrated in Fig. 17A, where boxes numbered 7 - 8 show the Network Server again transmitting the list of new addresses and the Sponsor updating its database. See also paragraph 0088, where this is discussed. Fig. 17B and its corresponding text in paragraph 0089 (see lines 10 - 11) also show the Network Server returning this list of addresses that are to be updated by the Sponsor.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that their independent Claims 1, 7, and 12 are patentable over Bilbrey. The dependent claims are therefore deemed patentable by virtue of (at least) the patentability of the dependent claims from which they depend. The Examiner is therefore respectfully requested to withdraw the §102 rejection of all remaining claims.
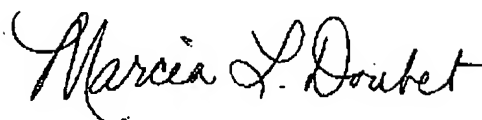
III.   Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending rejected claims, withdrawal of all presently outstanding objections and rejections, and allowance of all claims at an early date.

Serial No. 10/064,793   -14-   JP920010176US1

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia L. Doubet

Marcia L. Doubet
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 40,999

Customer Number for Correspondence: 54044
Phone: 407-343-7586
Fax: 407-343-7587

Serial No. 10/064,793   -15-   JP920010176US1